

## GOD! OUR FATHER

George Tabac - March 1997

The Memorial Season is a precious time. As we reflect on the final sufferings of our Lord, and the wondrous privilege we have of sharing in his sacrifice, we find that it invigorates us with greater determination to make our calling and election sure.

It causes us to reflect more deeply than ever on what our lives are all about.

That we have been invited to the most glorious opportunity that will ever be offered throughout eternity. If we could but walk faithfully in our Lord's footsteps.

Today we would like to continue in our memorial preparation, by considering how our great God, chooses to liken himself to us as our Father.

Think for a moment of our God. He:

**"Who is from everlasting to everlasting." PSA 90:2**

## HEAVENS

He who brought into being the unending vastness of the entire universe. He:

**"Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?" ISA 40:12**

He to whom:

**..."the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance." ISA 40:15**

We echo the words of David:

**"O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens...When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained, *what is man, that thou art mindful of him?* and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" PSA 8:1**

As we thus consider, we bow in humble adoration with the Apostle John when he said:

**1JO 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God!**

We who from one standpoint are as insignificant as dust on the balance, are yet loved of God, so much so that he desires to consider us as His own precious sons.

God chose to use the dearest terminology possible to describe our relationship to himself. He wants us to think of him, as our Father, because he thinks of us as his children.

As in:

**GAL 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**

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Today we would like to consider the appropriateness of why God likens himself to being our father.

A true earthly father begets his children. He loves them. He sympathizes with them, He treats them with kindness and compassion, He has confidence in them, He is a companion to them. He provides for them. He trains them. And finally he gives them an inheritance.

We would like to proceed to see how all these qualities of fatherhood, are beautifully exemplified in God's fatherliness to the Church.

The first fundamental aspect of fatherhood is begettal.

We see from scripture that God indeed is the one who begat us.

**1 John 5:1 (Diag.) "Every one who believes that Jesus is the Anointed one, has been begotten by God; and every one who loves the begetter, loves the one begotten by him."**

The seed by which we were begotten is God's word, as we read in:

**1 Peter 1:23 (Diag.) "Having been begotten again not from corruptible seed, but incorruptible, through the living word of God."**

Our begettal was very specific, as being the direct will of God.

**JAM 1:18 "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."**

We may at times wonder what actually takes place when one is spirit begotten? Does something tangible actually happen? Yes, we believe it does just as in natural begettal.

There is an actual INSTANT in time that a new spiritual life begins, when God implants in our minds an embryo new creature.

It has a tiny beginning but from that moment on it's influence begins to expand our natural human mental faculties, to take on a new spiritual perspective in every avenue of life, in a way the natural mind could never do alone..

Thus God's fatherhood to us begins when "Of his own will" he determines to beget us with His Holy Spirit. A embryo New Creature comes into being.

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The next aspect of the quality of fatherhood, is fatherly love.

We are assured of God's love for us in countless scriptures.

**JOH 16:27 "For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God."**

**1JO 4:10,11 "Herein is love, not that we loved God, *but that he loved us*, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, *if God so loved us*, we ought also to love one another."**

Notice the warmth and great endearment God expresses in his feelings towards the Church in:

**PSA 132:13,14 "For the LORD hath chosen *Zion*; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it."**

How more expressively could our father express his great love to us, his undeserving often wayward children?

But not only does God ***tell us*** he loves us, he ***shows or demonstrates it*** in countless ways.

He sent his son to die for us.

**John 3:16  
For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son.**

He forgives us our sins.

**MIC 7:18 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, ...he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.**

He instructs us.

***I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go. Psalm 32:8***

He chastens us for our well being.

**Thus you are to know in your heart that the LORD your God was *disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son*. Duet. 8:5 (NAS)**

He protects us from danger.

**The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and *delivereth them*. Psalm 34:7**

**LUK 21:17,18 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall *not an hair of your head perish*.**

He provides for our every need.

**For your *Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. Matt. 6:8***

He providentially guides us.

**In all thy ways acknowledge him, and *he shall direct thy paths. Prov. 3:6***

He stands beside us to give us victory in our battles with sin, error, selfishness and worldliness.

**Behold, the *LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear. Isa. 59:1***

And finally if faithful, he will grant us such an inheritance that we can't even begin to comprehend.

**The *LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust. Ruth 2:12***

Brethren, I'm sure these Scriptures are familiar to us all. They demonstrate but a small portion of the love, the care our Father has for us. May we reflect on them often, because they are a source of encouragement to us each day as we claim them for our own.

Thus we see the 2nd aspect of true fatherhood is demonstrated, God truly, truly loves us.

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The third thing that a loving father does towards his children is he becomes a companion, a friend to them.

One is not a true father who holds his children at arms length, feeling, looking, speaking and acting sternly towards them. Such a father may force their obedience and fear, but he will never endear himself to them.

No, what is needed is a loving companionship that demonstrates interest, confidence, sympathy, kindness, a feeling of friendship.

God as our father wants us to feel all of these endearing qualities that he has for us.

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He wants to show us his deep vital concern for us in even the minutous detail.

**Matt. 10:29-31 (NIV) *Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.***

He shows his **confidence** towards us as his children by revealing to us his innermost thoughts and plans for us and all mankind. Plans that encompass not just our immediate future, but those that will extend into the ages of eternity. Jesus told us:

**"To you it is granted to know the *mysteries of the kingdom of God*: but to the rest it is in parables." Luke 8:10 NAS**

He further shows his *confidence* in us by entrusting us with the **stewardship of being his ambassadors**, to share the knowledge given to us, with whosoever has a heart to listen.

He knew we might be inclined to wonder if it is still the thing to do when so few respond? As a loving father he gave the answer to our question, even before we asked.

How Long should we continue to put forth His message of truth?

**ISA 6:11 "How long? ...Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate."**

As a father, God at times uses rather strong positive language as he does here, just in case we have any doubt.

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As a father God *sympathizes* with us in all our failures, pains, and sorrows.

**Psa. 56:8 (LB) "You have seen me tossing and turning through the night. *You have collected all my tears and preserved them in your bottle! You have recorded every one in your book.***

Oh what an endearing way our father tells us he sees, he cares, he's touched by our every tear and heartache. He wants us to be assured, he only permits them because he loves us, and only allows them because they are for our eternal best interest.

**HEB 12:6 *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.***

It is especially with reference to the church that it is written:

**"In all their affliction *He (Jehovah) was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them.*" Isa. 63:9 (NAS)**

As a father, he shows his compassion and mercy towards his children.

**Psa. 103:13,14 (NAS) "Just as a father has compassion on His children, so the *LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame, He is mindful that we are but dust.*"**

There's not an experience coming to any one of us that He does not see and feel, and adjusts his overruling to be most helpful to our new creature.

**PSA 147:3 He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.**

His kindness to us is never effected by our moods of touchiness or grouchiness. When we offend in weakness or ignorance, he knows we are but dust, and is ready to forgive, when we acknowledge our wrong in prayer.

**1 John 1:9**

**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to *forgive us our sins*, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

What interests us, God is interested in. What deeply concerns or effects us, effects him.

**"For this is what the LORD Almighty says,... *whoever touches you touches the apple of His eye.*" Zech. 2:8 NIV**

What words could God use to describe more deeply his feeling of affection for his children than to say, he that touches you touches the apple of my eye.

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Earthly friendships often deteriorate when adversity comes. But not so with our heavenly father.

In health and in sickness, in joy and in sorrow, in pleasure and in pain, in rest and in labor, in safety and in danger, in prosperity and in adversity, and in life and in death, our fathers friendship continues for he has promised

**"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. Therefore we may boldly say, The LORD is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." HEB 13:5, 6**

Such is the friendship, the oneness we have with our Father and our Lord Jesus.

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Another aspect of a loving father is he makes promises to his children and fulfills them.

**2PE 1:4 "Whereby are given unto us *exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature.*"**

He has promised:

**"That *all things work together for good* to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." ROM 8:28**

There are times in our lives that the world seems to be crushing in on us. This is especially when, as we cry on our father's shoulder, we need to remember this promise. He wants us to know that even this experience, as difficult as it is, will work together for our good.

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Another thing a good father does for his children is to provide their food, raiment and shelter.

This too God does, not only in earthly, but more especially in heavenly aspects.

He provides the best of spiritual food for each phase of our Christian life. From the milk of the word to strong meat. So whether we are a babe in Christ, a child, a youth, an adult or aged, there is just the proper food needed for our sustenance. Covering a broad range of variety for our balanced nourishment.

**Doctrine, Moral Teaching, History, Character Development, Prophecy, Examples Of Faith, Chronology, Inspiration,**

and the list could go on and on

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Our Father also provides raiment for us that is both beautiful and useful.

**ISA 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.**

Yes Christ's robe of righteousness hides everyone of our uncomely features and adorns us with the beauty of our Lord.

Our robe shields us from too much cold or heat, so that we can always feel secure to be protected from the elements in our sacrificial walk.

Then our Father provides us with the necessary materials to embroider our robes with the graces of the spirit, so that our wedding garments will be beautiful to behold.

**PSA 45:13 "The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework."**

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Our Father also provides us with the best of shelter. For **He himself is our habitation.**

**1JO 4:16 "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God."**

It's a beautiful house to dwell in. It is well lighted and ventilated, roomy and comfortable. Joy and peace permeates every room.

In the winter time of trouble the house is always comfortable, not too cold or too hot. For we are promised:

**1 Cor 10:13 (Diag.) "No trial has assailed you except what belongs to man, and God is faithful, who will not permit you to be tried beyond your ability, but with the trial, will also direct the issue, that you may be able to bear it."**

While outside the house, the night of sin reigns with darkness sorrows, woes, uncertainty and fears, yet within that house it is always light, for the light of present truth illuminates every room.

Thus God providing us with perfect shelter, food and raiment, further shows His fatherly love, care and provision for his children.

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Another function of a father is **training his children**. As a true father, God trains His children.

He first trains their **minds** by teaching them **true knowledge**.

Which enables them to perceive, remember and reason on, so that this knowledge becomes a part of their very being.

This knowledge is along several lines. Some pertains to the mind which we often refer to as head knowledge, as compared to heart knowledge. This includes **scriptural doctrine**, which pertains to the means of salvation, and all the facets of God's plans and purposes.

**HEB 6:1 (NAS & KJ) Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.**

We need this knowledge first to establish a foundation for our Christian life. But then we must go on to deeper truths.

In addition to our minds God trains our **hearts**. He teaches us the **principals** which should govern our thoughts, speech and actions in all the experiences of life..

**MIC 6:8 "What doth the LORD require of thee, but to *do justly*, and to *love mercy*, and to *walk humbly with thy God*?"**

**PSA 73:24 (NAS) "*With thy counsel Thou wilt guide me, and afterward receive me to glory.*"**

Both forms of knowledge and training are important.

Doctrinal Knowledge is important, NOT just in it's self, but as a means to and end. That of transforming our hearts and minds.

**ROM 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye *transformed by the renewing of your mind*, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

Doctrinal knowledge is absolutely necessary to develop a strong faith. And a strong faith in turn, is what will enable us to deny ourselves, to live sacrificially, to overcome our weaknesses, and to develop a character that pleases God.



Thus being first fortified with knowledge, God then as a loving father begins our **training process** of helping us to **apply this knowledge** in all of life's experiences.

The training is guided and supervised thru the use of God's overruling providences and chastening experiences.

**PSA 32:8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.**

**PSA 48:14 For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.**

Thus gradually bit by bit, God trains and molds his children's characters.

From being in want, to abundance.

**PHI 4:12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.**

The training ever continues from one facet to another. From good health to illness.

**JOB 13:15 "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him."**

From being humbled to being elevated.

**MAT 23:12 "He that shall humble himself shall be exalted."**

From weaknesses of the flesh, to victory of the spirit.

**2CO 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**

**1CO 15:43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:**

From pride to developing humility.

**PHI 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.**

From a life of lethargy to a life of overwhelming zeal.

**JER 20:9** Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But *his word was in mine heart as a burning fire* shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

From being impatient to complete resignation to God's overruling.

**LUK 21:19** In your *patience* possess ye your souls.

**GAL 6:9** And let us not *be weary in well doing*: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

From having anger to be literally able to love even our enemies.

**LUK 6:27,28** "But I say unto you which hear, *Love your enemies*, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you."

And when God has finished his **TRAINING** of his children's hearts, they will have the finest hearts in the universe.

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Then God gives his children **MANUAL training** as well as head and heart training.

He trains them in the art of building.

**MAT 7:24** Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which *built his house upon a rock*. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Referring to the structure the Church is building of faith and character.

The Church is also being trained in planting and watering God's garden.

**1CO 3:6-9** "I have *planted*, Apollos *watered*; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase...and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For *we are laborers together with God*: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."

The Church are being trained to be reapers.

**MAT 13:30** "In the time of harvest I will say to the *reapers*, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."

Some are trained in the work of sheherding sheep.

**ACT 20:28 "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God."**

He also trains the Church to be good merchants.

**MAT 13:45 "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a *merchant man, seeking goodly pearls*, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."**

In addition we're trained to be capable fisherman.

**MAT 4:19 "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you *fishers of men*."**

The Church are trained to be teacher's.

**MAT 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and *teach all nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."**

We're trained to be athletic racers.

**1CO 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? *So run, that ye may obtain*.**

We're trained to be mighty wrestlers.

**EPH 6:12 For we *wrestle not against flesh and blood*, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**

We're being trained to be good soldiers.

**2TI 2:3 Thou therefore *endure hardness, as a good soldier* of Jesus Christ.**

In addition to these abilities God is training his children for the ultimate positions of being Kings, and Priests.

**REV 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection,...they shall be *priests of God* and of Christ, and shall *reign* with him a thousand years.**

They are being trained to be physicians.

**REV 22:2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the *healing of the nations*.**

They are being trained to be Judges.

**1CO 6:2,3 Do ye not know that the *saints shall judge the world?* and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall *judge angels?* how much more things that pertain to this life?**

They are being trained to be saviours.

**OBA 1:21 And *saviours shall come up on mount Zion* to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S.**

Truly we can see how God as a loving father, in giving his beloved children the most splendid training that will ever be given thruout eternity.

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The final thing that a good father does for his children is to give them the **best inheritance** that he can.

The inheritance that God has promised to his faithful children, is so magnificent it is beyond our comprehension.

It will not be automatic however, as it is often with earthly inheritances.

It will only take place upon faithfully completing a trial to see who would meet the **standard necessary**, to receive everlasting spiritual life, or the greatest inheritance of all, - Divine Immortal life.

**1PE 1:7 "That the *trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold* that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."**

God literally planned for his beloved children and their inheritance, before they even came into existence.

**EPH 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him *before the foundation of the world*, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:**

The Apostle Peter describes the inheritance in:

**1PE 1:4 To an *inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away*, reserved in heaven for you,**

Our glorified Lord Jesus is God's agent in helping to prepare this inheritance:

**JOH 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. *I go to prepare a place for you.***

God truly considers his Church as his heirs when he describes the magnitude of their inheritance and what is required to attain it in:

**ROM 8:16 "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. And if children, then *heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*"**

God describes many aspects of the inheritance to help encourage his children to put forth every effort possible to attain it.

The first aspect is that the inheritance will continue for eternity.

**TIT 3:7 "Being justified by his grace, we might be made *heirs* according to the hope of *eternal life.*"**

Next we're told the inheritance will include life within ones self.

**1CO 15:52 "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump,...*we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*"**

**2CO 4:16 "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us *a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.*"**

Our Father encourages us not to become discouraged by our humble position in life.

**JAM 2:5 "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the *poor of this world, rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom* which he hath promised to them that love him?"**

Though we may have a lowly position in life now, he promises it will not continue so.

**REV 5:10 "And thou hast made them unto our God *kings and priests: and they shall reign on the earth.*"**

What an inheritance! To be Kings and Priests in the kingdom to all mankind. But it even goes beyond that!

## **STARS - GALAXIES**

It will include the wealth of God's boundless universe and all that pertains to it, in all the ages to come..

There will be no need to fear that such an inheritance will breed discontent and strife in the heirs, because each of them will love the others more than self. And thus they in perfect peace and prosperity will jointly administer their inheritance.

Nor will they be the objects of others envy for their great inheritance, since they will use it for the best interests of all concerned.

**EARTH IN SPACE**

First for fallen men and fallen angels,

**STARS**

And then for the good of various orders of beings that God is planning for the billions of planets in his universe

**STARS**

For we realize that God created nothing in vain. All these billions upon billions of stars were created with a purpose. These stars are all suns, and have planetary systems just like our sun.

Thus the Churches inheritance will continue to expand in the ages beyond the Kingdom. For part of their continued administration of the universe will be to bring into being other creations of life, and then help bring them to full perfect crystallization of character.

**Eph. 2:5-7 NAS "God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us,...raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavenly places,...in order that *in the ages to come* he might show the *surpassing riches of His grace* in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."**

Yes, the surpassing riches of his grace will thus continue thruout the ages to come as there work continues, of developing their inheritance planet by planet.

**STARS - GALAXIES**

The glory and immensity of this inheritance is inconceivable. It will be an inheritance that will be developing and expanding endlessly.

**PARENT WITH CHILD**

One of the greatest joys of human life is becoming a parent with all the blessings associated with it. You experience countless joys and no doubt a few frustrations, as the tiny babe grows ever so quickly to maturity.

**MATURE GOD FEARING ADULT**

But what a joy when you can see the fruits of your labors have helped develop a mind, a character that pleases you and our heavenly father.

This will be part of the inheritance of the Church as it is repeated billions of times over, as they bring into being new creations on other planets, and then help them all reach perfection.

What an inheritance God as our Father, has promised to his faithful children.

Thus as we contemplate the magnitude of all of our Heavenly Father's endearing provisions for His children, we bow in humble adoration.

**"Thine, O LORD is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name." 1CH 29:11**